THE ISSUES

Despite the success, some issues arose with SDR in the 2008 election.

Administrative Delays

There is no guarantee we will see the level of registration activity that was experienced in the 2008 election; however, due to the volume of one-stop registrations, county boards of elections could not meet the 48-hour deadline that is required by GS 163-82.6A. This statute provides:

> [w]ithin two business days of the person's registration under this section, the county board of elections in conjunction with the State Board of Elections shall verify the North Carolina drivers license or Social Security number in accordance with G.S. 163‑82.12, update the statewide registration database and search for possible duplicate registrations, and proceed under G.S. 163‑82.7 to verify the person's address.

County boards, especially those in large counties, had to hire additional staff to process these new registrations. County board staff worked long hours and work weeks in order to meet this two-business day requirement. Although staff worked as efficiently as they could, generally it was not possible to process the number of voter registration applications received during the one-stop period within two days.

Other administrative issues include:

- County boards were pressed for time in printing precinct poll books due to the need to complete the processing of SDRs, although they were all able to have the poll books in time for the opening of polls on election day.
- County boards found that it was important to manage the logistics of transmitting the SDR paperwork from one-stop sites to the county boards of elections. Some counties had to pay extra one-stop workers to transport the SDRs to the county board office.
- Due to volume issues, county boards of elections experienced minor delays in DMV validations, especially during the last few days of one-stop voting.

Returned Verification Mailings

Some SDRs did not complete the mail verification cycle prior to the certification date. County boards received verification mailings that were returned as undeliverable after the election had been canvassed and certified. In essence, county boards found that there was not enough time between the end of one-stop voting (and SDRs) and the canvass date to ensure that verification mailings completed the mail verification process. 2.4 percent of registrations were subsequently denied due to the inability of the county boards to verify the applicant's address through the mail.

There are various factors that complicate the mail verification process. Mailings may be returned due to postal error, administrative errors, lack of a valid mailing address due to homelessness, or the transient nature of our population. College and university students were one of the main groups of same-day registrants with returned verification mailings. The issue arose with students who legally registered in their college community during the one-stop period, but who left town or moved away before the verification cycle could be completed. Once these students left town, their verification cards were returned to the county boards of